(b) Import of paper board and manufactures during the two years is as under :—

(Provisionsal figures)

Rs. lakh	
1991-92	14725.50
1992-93	11596.39

(April *92—Nov. '92)

(c) The production of paper and paper board during 1992 is estimated to be about 21 lakh tonnes. At present, 77 paper units with an installed capacity of about 6.45 lakh tonnes in the country are not reporting produe, tion. They are either sick or lying closed. The main reason^ for sickness in the paper industry are indaequate availability of raw materials out-dated and mis-matched equipment, inadequate availability of power and coal, and management problems.

(d) Th$_e$ paper and paper board in. dustry is meeting the entire domestic demand for common varieties of paper and paper board. Imports consist of some speciality paper$_s$ such as art paper, cheque paper, photo base paper, high strength craft pa_ per, filter paper, cable and condensor paper, etc. Import of paper, except paper for security printing, currency paper, stamp paper and other special types of paper, is not regulated and is freely allowed under the EXIM policy without the need of an Import Licence. Th$_e$ Government have, how. ever, taken following steps to encourage production of pape$_r$ and paper board in th$_e$ country :

(i) Paper units based on us$_e$ of minimum 75 per cent pulp derived from bagasse, agricultural residues and other non-conventional raw materials have bee$_n$ exempted from industrial licensing subject to locational angle.

(ii) Manufacture of writing and printing paper and uneoated craft paper containing not less than 70 per cent by weight of pulp made from rice and wheat straw, jute, mesta or bagasse or mixture there, of OT mixture of two or more of the pulps of the aforementioned materials is exempted from excise duty.

(iii) Import of waste papers has been freely allowed without the need of an Import Licence at a low rate of customs duty (20 per cent).

Proposal to amend the Companies Act

*231. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAND-RAKANT BHANDARE;
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is a proposal to amend the Companies Act to make the annual environment audit of the companies compulsory;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the circumstances leading to such changes in the law; and

(c) what, infrastructure has been proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OP LAW. JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) En. vironmental Audit is provided for under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Government is. however considering a proposal to amend the Companies Act requiring the companies to disclose in the Directors' Report such partisniars regarding environmental protection as may be prescribed.

ग्राम सभाओं का पुनर्गठन

*232. श्री राम गोपाल यादव : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ग्राम सभाओं का पुनर्गठन करने का विचार रखती है, यदि हां, तो क्या इसके लिए न्यूनतम जन-संख्या सीमा 250 निश्चित करने का कोई प्रस्ताव है ;